Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a continuing application. Please add claims 31-40 as follows:

Claims 1-15. **(Cancelled)**

16. (Original) A method of deterring removal of a portable electronic device from a locality, the method comprising:

(a) rendering operation of the portable electronic device dependent upon a given stimulus, so that the device is inoperable without at least some exposure for some time to the given stimulus;

(b) providing a source of the stimulus within the locality; and

(c) limiting transmission of the stimulus to a region of space within the locality.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein step (a) comprises:

preempting a power-up sequence, until exposure to the stimulus.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device is a two-way radio, and wherein step (a) comprises:

disabling reception of a radio signal, until exposure to the stimulus.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device is a two-way radio, and wherein step (a) comprises:

disabling transmission of a radio signal, until exposure to the stimulus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the stimulus is a magnetic field.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the stimulus is an infrared signal.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the stimulus is an identification code modulated against a radio frequency carrier signal.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein step (a) comprises interrupting an output of a voltage regulator that powers circuitry within the portable electronic device, until exposure to the stimulus.

24. (Original) A method of deterring removal of a portable electronic device from a locality, the method comprising:

(a) rendering the portable electronic device incapable of properly operating after being powered down, without at least some exposure for some time to a given stimulus during a subsequent power-up sequence;

(b) providing a source of the stimulus within the locality; and

(c) limiting transmission of the stimulus to a region of space within the locality.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein step (a) comprises:

preempting a power-up sequence, until exposure to the stimulus.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the portable electronic device is a two-way radio, and wherein step (a) comprises:

disabling reception of a radio signal, until exposure to the stimulus.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the portable electronic device is a two-way radio, and wherein step (a) comprises:

disabling transmission of a radio signal, until exposure to the stimulus.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the stimulus is a magnetic field.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the stimulus is an infrared signal.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the stimulus is an identification code modulated against a radio frequency carrier signal.

31. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device is a two-way radio, the two-way radio being dependent upon said exposure to the given stimulus for operability.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the given stimulus is transmission of a radio signal, the two-way radio including operational circuitry for reception and transmission of the radio signal.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the two-way radio includes a power source that provides power to the operational circuitry.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, further including closing a stimulus-sensitive switch of the two-way radio upon said exposure to the given stimulus, until such time as the radio is powered down, the stimulus-sensitive switch being interposed between a power source of the two-way radio and the operational circuitry.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the two-way radio further includes an on/off switch interposed between the power source and the operational circuitry.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, further including:

closing a first switch of the stimulus-sensitive switch in response to said exposure to the given stimulus; and

closing a second switch of the stimulus-sensitive switch in response to closure of the first switch.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein closing the second switch completes a feedback circuit causing the second switch to remain closed.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the stimulus-sensitive switch is configured to respond to exposure to a magnetic field.

39. (**New**) The method of claim 34, wherein the stimulus-sensitive switch is configured to respond to exposure to an infrared signal.

40. (**New**) The method of claim 34, wherein the stimulus-sensitive switch is configured to respond to exposure to a radio frequency signal.